

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
(March 1, 2007)

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners took the following action:

Joseph Berdecia, a 48 year-old physician who formerly practiced family medicine and obstetrics in Knoxville, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board charged Dr. Berdecia for failing to maintain appropriate medical records for numerous patients, inappropriately prescribing medications on at least four occasions and failing to provide appropriate obstetrical care to at least five patients. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Berdecia a public reprimand, ordered him to complete a Board-approved comprehensive competency evaluation and placed him on probation for a period of five years subject to numerous terms and conditions to monitor his medical practice.

Stephen S. Jewett, M.D., a 66 year-old physician from Centerville, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board. On March 1, 2006, Dr. Jewett was criminally charged with acquiring or obtaining controlled substances by misrepresentation, fraud, deception or subterfuge. On April 27, 2006, the Board charged Dr. Jewett with inappropriately prescribing controlled substances, diverting controlled drugs for his own use, inappropriately prescribing controlled substances to a member of his immediate family, and falsifying patient medical records. On January 18, 2007, Dr. Jewett pleaded guilty to five counts of acquiring or obtaining controlled substances by misrepresentation, fraud, deception or subterfuge. Each count is punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of four years, a maximum fine of not more than \$250,000, or both. Dr. Jewett has not yet been sentenced. On February 19, 2007, Dr. Jewett voluntarily surrendered his Iowa medical license to resolve the pending disciplinary charges.

David G. Kundel, M.D., a 66 year-old radiologist from Emmetsburg, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges filed against him. On February 19, 2007, the Board charged Dr. Kundel with engaging in professional incompetency in the practice of radiology. A hearing on the charges is scheduled for April 10, 2007.

Irving L. Wolfe, D.O., a 49 year-old neurologist practicing in Des Moines, Iowa, had his Iowa medical license reinstated. On May 4, 2006, the Board indefinitely suspended Dr. Wolfe's Iowa medical license after the Board determined that he engaged in inappropriate sexual relationships with at least three patients, inappropriately prescribed controlled substances and he documented patient examinations that he did not perform. At the direction of the Board, Dr. Wolfe successfully completed comprehensive sexual misconduct treatment. In addition to the indefinite suspension, Dr. Wolfe was issued a public reprimand and he was required to pay a \$10,000 fine. Under the terms of the Reinstatement Order, Dr. Wolfe must have a chaperone present at all times when treating female patients, he must continue sexual misconduct treatment, he is prohibited from prescribing controlled substances, and he is placed on probation for a period of five years subject to numerous terms and conditions for future monitoring.